

# Indiana House of Representatives

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## News and Information

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### **DVORAK BILL STOPS ELECTED OFFICIALS WHO ARE CHILD SUPPORT SCOFFLAWS**

INDIANAPOLIS – State Rep. Ryan Dvorak (D-South Bend) announced today he has filed legislation that would remove elected officials from office if they refuse to make child support payments.

House Bill 1104 would require any Indiana officeholder who is more than \$15,000 behind in child support payments to forfeit their office.

"Elected officials who will not meet their legal obligations to their own children have betrayed the public's trust," said Dvorak. "If someone does not support their own children, they should not be allowed the privilege of serving the public."

Indiana law already allows for the suspension of professional licenses granted by state boards (for such occupations as teachers, accountants, doctors, lawyers, barbers, and plumbers) if they become seriously delinquent in their child support obligations. Even driver's licenses can be suspended for delinquent payments.

The legislation would allow any citizen of the state to request that a judge remove a qualifying official from office.

Under current law, elected officials may be removed from office because of a felony conviction, violation of certain federal laws, formal impeachment and even for "voluntary intoxication."

"The vast majority of elected officials in Indiana are dedicated, hard-working, and conscientious public servants," said Dvorak. "The few that lack respect for their legal and moral obligations should not be entrusted with managing public programs or taxpayer dollars."

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**This news release can be accessed on the Internet at [www.IN.gov/H08](http://www.IN.gov/H08)**